



DEFENSE HEALTH AGENCY
7700 ARLINGTON BOULEVARD, SUITE 5101
FALLS CHURCH, VIRGINIA 22042-5101

May 9, 2019

Russ Kick
MuckRock News
DEPT MR 69809
411A Highland Ave
Somerville, MA 02144-2516

Dear Russ Kick:

Thank you for your Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request of February 25, 2019, received by the Defense Health Agency (DHA) on February 25, 2019. Your request has been assigned Case Number 19-00145. Please reference this number in any future correspondence on this matter.

A review of your request shows that you are seeking:

[Pursuant to the Freedom of Information Act, I hereby request the following records: your agency's FOIA request log covering 2018, which includes a field showing the subject of each request and a field for the final disposition.]

The DHA has not been able to respond to your request within the FOIA's 20-day statutory time period due to unusual circumstances. The unusual circumstances may include: (a) the need to search for and collect records from a facility geographically separated from this office; (b) the potential volume of records responsive to your request; (c) the need for consultation with one or more agencies which have substantial interest in either the determination or the subject matter of the records; and (d) an unusually high volume of FOIA requests.

In accordance with 32 Code of Federal Regulations Part § 286.8(a), the DHA FOIA Service Center responds to requests in the order received. Your request is presently **289** in our queue to be processed. Due to the number of open requests ahead of yours, the **estimated completion date** for your request is now January 17, 2020. However, it is highly probable the requested records will be publically available on the agency's website by September 30, 2019. In that case, you will be notified by the DHA FOIA Service Center. We sincerely regret there is a substantial delay in processing requests, and we solicit your patience and understanding as we diligently work to respond.

If you are not satisfied with this action, you may appeal to the DHA appellate authority. Your appeal must be written and postmarked within 90 calendar days of the date of this letter, should cite the above referenced control number, and should be clearly marked "Freedom of Information Act Appeal." To submit electronically, email DHA.FOIAappeals@mail.mil. To submit via postal delivery, send your written appeal to:

Defense Health Agency
FOIA Requester Service Center
Attention: FOIA Appellate Authority
7700 Arlington Boulevard, Suite 5101
Falls Church, VA 22042-5101

In addition, please note you have the right to seek dispute resolution services from the DHA FOIA Public Liaison via the following contact information:

Defense Health Agency
FOIA Requester Service Center
Attention: FOIA Public Liaison
7700 Arlington Boulevard, Suite 5101
Falls Church, VA 22042-5101
Phone: 1+ (703) 275-6363

If you are unable to resolve your FOIA dispute through our FOIA Public Liaison, the Federal FOIA Ombudsman's office offers mediation services through the Office of Government Information Services (OGIS) to help resolve disputes between FOIA requesters and Federal agencies. You may contact OGIS via the following:

National Archives and Records Administration
Office of Government Information Services
8601 Adelphi Road - OGIS
College Park, MD 20740-6001
Email: ogis@nara.gov
Phone: 1+ (202) 741-5770 or Toll Free: 1-877-684-6448

If you have any questions about processing your request under the FOIA, please contact me at (703) 275-6009, or the FOIA Requester Service Center at (703) 275-6363.

Sincerely,



Nadine Brown
FOIA Compliance Manager
DHA Privacy and Civil Liberties Office